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**Patching and resurfacing project along
Bishop Ford Freeway (I-94) begins tonight**

Much of the work will be performed during overnight hours and weekends

CHICAGO – The major rehabilitation project along the Bishop Ford Freeway (I-94) begins after rush hour tonight (May 11th), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced today.

By June, the work zone will encompass a 9-mile stretch along both directions of the Bishop Ford from Martin Luther King Drive (400 east) on the north to 159th Street on the south.

“IDOT will complete most of the work at night but daytime and weekend closures will be necessary to complete the project,” said Jacek Tyszkiewicz, IDOT’s engineer of project implementation. “Drivers should expect delays and allow extra time or take alternate routes.”

The \$27.5 million rehabilitation effort will involve resurfacing all lanes and shoulders, pavement patching, bridge repairs, new guardrail installations lane and exit/entrance ramp resurfacing, including the Stony Island Feeder Ramp. It’s one of Illinois’ nearly 250 “shovel-ready” construction projects announced earlier this year and funded by the Obama Administration’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Lane closures should be expected during the overnight hours with traffic down to a single lane in many areas. In addition, exit and entrance ramps at 111th Street, 115th Street, 130th Street, Sibley Blvd. (147th Street) and 159th Street will be closed intermittently. Overnight lane closures will occur between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Temporary detours will be posted for ramp closures and no ramps will be closed concurrently.

During the peak weekday travel hours, every effort will be made to maintain three lanes of traffic in each direction. However, traffic in some sections will be permanently reduced to two lanes from one to five months. Traffic along the Stony Island Feeder Ramp also will be reduced to a single lane in each direction at various times. On weekends, traffic will be down to two lanes in most areas of the work zone.

The majority of the work is anticipated to be completed in the fall 2009. Nighttime lane closures are anticipated in the spring of 2010 to complete the remainder of the project.

Heavy congestion should be expected at all times. Drivers are urged to consider alternate routes and public transportation. All work and related closures are weather dependent.

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